

NORDONIA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mrs. Tolin 8th Grade Language Arts Team Typhoon

Welcome Back!

Middle School is an important and transitional time in many students' lives. These two years are often accompanied with both challenges and benefits---ranging from life lessons in friendships, maturity, academics, consequences and new successes. Oftentimes, 8th graders feel anxiety over the sense of added pressure to prepare for high school: to become more organized, to be more independently responsible and to accept that the stakes are getting higher. It can also be a challenging time for parents and guardians alike. To help prepare for some of these challenges, please refer to the information on this page as a guideline for this year's expectations and procedures. Also, please utilize the provided contact information as necessary. I look forward to working and getting to know each of you better throughout the year!

General Academic Goals:

- To read several novels, plays, poems and short stories
- Enhance independent reading and comprehension skills
- Participate in book discussions
- Engage in higher-level and critical thinking skills
- Complete multi-genre projects utilizing various technologies
- Improve our use of grammatical devices and strengthen writing compositions
- Expand our vocabulary
- Become fluent and mature writers for a wide variety of audiences and purposes
- To prepare students for success in the high school

General Course of Study:



Literature

- Summer Reading: *Nothing but the Truth* by Avi
- Word Wisdom (Zaner-Bloser Vocabulary Series, 2010)
- Poetry (various)
- "A Retrieved Reformation" by O'Henry
- "Tell Tale Heart", "The Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe
- *Miracle Boys* by Jacqueline Woodson
- Read for Real (various nonfiction works)
- "Thank You Ma'am" by Langston Hughes
- "I Have a Dream", speech by Dr. Martin Luther King
- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare

Writing/Projects

- Multi-genre project
- Copy/Change Poetry
- Original Poetry
- "Spare Time" Formula Wrg
- Time Capsule Letter
- Journal Writing
- Dramatic Presentations
- Persuasive Wrtg. Pieces
- Research Paper (to be discussed)
- Theme essays
- Various Editing Practice Pieces

Students & Guardians:

 Please sign, detach and return this lower portion to acknowledge that you have read and understand the course information: 

Date

Class Period

8th grade Student name (Please print)

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian's name (Please print)

Parent/Guardian signature

2012-2013

Best way to be reached
(Email address and/or phone number)

Teacher Contact Information:

Mrs. Anna Tolin

Email: Anna.Tolin@Nordoniaschools.org

Website: MrsTolin@wikispaces.org ←A great source for weekly classroom information including lesson plans, HW, due date reminders and links to other academic resources.

Daily Supplies Required for Class:

College ruled loose-leaf notebook paper

Pens: blue or black

An editing utensil: a colored pen, marker and/or colored pencil

Pencils and erasers

1 USB flash drive

Folder with brads and pockets OR a 3-ring binder with inner pockets.

Special Points of Interest:**Absences:** (as per the NMS Student/parent Handbook)

Students have one day for each day of absence (up to five days) to make up work.

It is the student's responsibility to meet with each teacher and to have make-up work completed within the time limits set by teachers. No credit will be given if students do not meet this expectation.

Parents may request homework from the Main Office.

Grading: (as per the NMS Student/parent Handbook)

Letter grades are determined by a specific percentage of total points earned during the grading period. The percentages used are: 90-100% A; 80-89 B; 70-79 C; 60-69 D; Below-60 F

Grades will be recorded and updated on ProgressBook weekly.

Cheating: (as per the NMS Student/parent Handbook)

No student shall copy another's homework, in-class work or answers. Students are to do their own work. No methods of cheating will be permitted. Students allowing others to copy their work are equally in violation. No method of cheating will be permitted, including computer tampering.

Cheating students will earn zero credit on the assignment and may receive additional disciplines including an office referral.

Communication Devices & Personal Electronic Equipment:

From the time this student enters the building until 3:00 PM, these and any other personal items that interfere with classroom instruction, will be confiscated by the supervising adult. These items should remain in the locker throughout the school day

Discipline Policy: Classroom disruptions and inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. It is expected that the classroom environment be one in which ALL students have their best opportunity for learning. Therefore, if a student chooses to break a rule, the following discipline procedure will be implemented:

Strike 1—Student receives a verbal warning

Strike 2—The student's seat may be move and/or his/her opportunity to participate may be revoked and/or the student may be instructed to utilize a 2-minute "cool down" opportunity.

Strike 3—Student will make a phone call to parent to communicate his/her poor behavior choices.

SEVERE INFRACTION—Office Referral

*Teacher discretion is used, and at times, may result in an immediate move from strike 1 to SEVERE INFRACTION.

Students & Guardians:**Please be sure to complete the requested information on the bottom of the first page.****Sign, detach and return the lower portion to acknowledge that you have read and understand the course information.****PLEASE KEEP THE ABOVE PORTION OF THIS HANDOUT FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS AND REFERENCES.**